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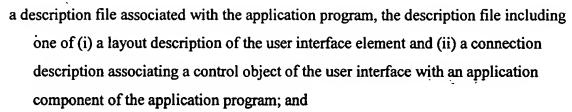
09/391,068, filed on September 7, 1999, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated by reference herein."

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 14-24 as follows:

- (Once amended) The server node of claim 12 wherein the application component comprises a member representative of an attribute of the application component alterable by a user or displayable to the user; and wherein the application-independent process further comprises an instance of management code, the management code instance mapping the correspondence between the application component member and a control object located on a client.
- 15. (Once amended) The server node of claim 11 further comprising a container object for each application component.
- 16. (Once amended) The server node of claim 11 wherein the application component comprises a member representative of an attribute of the application component alterable by a user or displayable to the user; and wherein the application-independent process further comprises a container object monitoring the application component member associated with that container object and initiating data transfer in response to a change of state of the associated application component member.
- 17. (Once amended) The server node of claim 11 wherein the application component comprises a member representative of an attribute of the application component alterable by a user or displayable to the user; and wherein the server node further comprises a proxy layer referencing a unique identifier for the application component member.
- 18. (Once amended) A client node to enable the update of a user interface element of a user interface without direct interaction between an application program and the user interface, the client node comprising:

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an application-independent process in communication with a server, the application-independent process accessing the description file, generating a control object associated with the application component based on the description file and updating the user interface in response to receiving data representing a detected change of state of the application component.

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- 19. (Once amended) The client node of claim 18 wherein the application-independent process is further configured to detect a change of state of the user interface and to transfer data to the application-independent server process in response to the detected change.
- (Once amended) The client node of claim 18 wherein the description file is in XML format.
- 21. (Once amended) The client node of claim 18 wherein the application-independent process further comprises an instance of a control object for each of a plurality of user interface elements, the control object instance representing a corresponding user interface element.
- 22. (Once amended) The client node of claim 18 further comprising a container object for the control object.
- 23. (Once amended) The client node of claim 18 further comprising a container object monitoring the control object associated with the container object and initiating data transfer in response to a change of state of the associated control object.
- 24. (Once amended) The client node of claim 18 further comprising a proxy layer referencing a unique identifier for the control object.